GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4634
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2016
Alternative use of Abandoned Mines
Nete Shri Ashok Mahadeorao

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any provision has been made for the alternative use of the mines abandoned after exploration, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
(b) whether the Government has prepared any action plan for levelling of such mines, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) and (b): Under the provisions of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder, State Governments grant mineral concessions based on the evidence of mineralisation after exploration.

There are provisions for Progressive and Final Mine Closure Plans in the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 for reclamation and rehabilitation of the mining lease area, inter-alia to provide for decommissioning, phased restoration, reclamation and rehabilitation in the mine thereof after cessation of mining operations.

The mine owner has the responsibility to ensure that the protective measures contained in the mine closure plan including reclamation and rehabilitation works have been carried out in accordance with the approved mine closure plan so that the land is restored, to the, extent possible, to the condition in which it was before commencement of the mining operations.

After mine closure, owner of the surficial right over the land can utilize it for alternate usage.

*****